

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER OF  
THE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

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**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR  
ENDED JUNE 30, 1927**



**UNITED STATES  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
WASHINGTON  
1927**



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# REPORT OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,  
HEADQUARTERS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington, July 1, 1927.*

*To the Commissioners of the District of Columbia:*

The following report, covering the operations of the fire department during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1927, is submitted:

## ALARMS OF FIRE

Alarms of fire during the year numbered 3,088, 559 less than the number received during the preceding year. Of these alarms, 1,477 were box alarms, a decrease of 152, and 1,641 were local alarms, a decrease of 407. Eighteen fires which required the sounding of additional alarms occurred, a decrease of 6 from the number experienced during the fiscal year 1926.

## FALSE ALARMS

False alarms during the year numbered 379, 82 more than the number received during the preceding year. Thorough investigation was made by the police department and the office of the fire marshal in these cases but in only one instance could sufficient evidence be obtained to warrant an arrest. In this case the accused person is now awaiting trial.

## INCENDIARY AND SUSPICIOUS FIRES

Incendiary fires during the year were 7 in number and 27 others of probable incendiary origin occurred. Full investigations were made by the police department and by the office of the fire marshal and 3 arrests were made. Two of the accused persons were committed to institutions for those of unsound mind. In the third case, sufficient evidence to obtain conviction could not be secured.

## FIRE LOSS

It is with sincere gratification that I report that the fire loss during the year was materially less than that for the preceding year, the decrease amounting to \$593,575. The total estimated loss for the year is \$675,379.

## FIRE PROTECTION

This work, under the supervision of the fire marshal, has been continued with unabated vigilance throughout the year, and many im-

provements in fire protection have been accomplished. Inspection visits made by the members of this force numbered 63,460, 1,948 being investigations of complaints.

Members of fire companies detailed by battalion chief engineers made 110,692 inspections of apartment houses, hotels, asylums, private and public schools, etc.

The office of the fire marshal is at present undermanned, and an additional number of inspectors should be allowed in order that more frequent visits to mercantile establishments and other locations presenting fire hazards may be made.

#### DISCIPLINE

Discipline during the year was uniformly excellent. The fact that but two members were removed for infractions of the rules and regulations and that minor disciplinary measures were necessary in only 112 cases are indications of the high standard of morale which obtained.

#### PENSIONS

Sergt. J. H. Swann was retired on July 15, 1926, and granted relief in the amount of \$91.66 per month.

Sergt. H. W. Hollidge was retired on July 31, 1926, and granted relief in the amount of \$91.66 per month.

Pvt. W. H. Melchoir was retired on August 31, 1926, and granted relief in the amount of \$87.50 per month.

Sergt. Angelo Schneider was retired on August 31, 1926, and granted relief in the amount of \$91.66 per month.

Pvt. Alexander Elliott was retired on October 15, 1926, and granted relief in the amount of \$87.50 per month.

Pvt. J. A. Cotter was retired on September 15, 1926, and granted relief in the amount of \$87.50 per month.

Lieut. C. W. Staples was retired on September 15, 1926, and granted relief in the amount of \$97.92 per month.

Capt. W. A. Dixon was retired on September 30, 1926, and granted relief in the amount of \$104.16 per month.

Battalion Chief Engineer C. F. Beers was retired on September 30, 1926, and granted relief in the amount of \$135.41 per month.

Deputy Chief Engineer A. J. Sullivan was retired on December 31, 1926, and granted relief in the amount of \$145.83 per month.

Battalion Chief Engineer W. F. Lanahan was retired on January 31, 1927, and granted relief in the amount of \$135.41 per month.

Ada S. Sylvester, widow of the late Pvt. F. J. Sylvester (a pensioner at the time of his death) was granted relief in the amount of \$60 per month, effective February 14, 1927.

Eleanor Mowatt, widow of the late Capt. James Mowatt, was granted relief in the amount of \$60 per month, effective April 12, 1927.

Pvt. H. J. Raley was retired on April 30, 1927, and granted relief in the amount of \$87.50 per month.

Sallie R. Malone, widow of the late Anthony Malone (a pensioner at the time of his death), was granted relief in the amount of \$60 per month, effective June 11, 1927.

## DEATHS

The decease of the following officers, members, and pensioners is reported with regret:

Capt. James Mowatt on March 18, 1927.

Pvt. H. L. Stout on June 22, 1927.

Pensioner Eleanora H. Smith on September 21, 1926.

Pensioner Florence V. Specht on December 11, 1926.

Pensioner S. R. Henry on January 25, 1927.

Pensioner F. J. Sylvester on February 12, 1927.

Pensioner Josephine C. Byrne on April 21, 1927.

Pensioner Georgianna Mahorney on May 3, 1927.

Pensioner Anthony Malone on June 9, 1927.

## NEW HOUSES

The commissioners, under date of June 17, 1927, accepted the offer of the owner of lot 802, square 2698, to sell this property to the District of Columbia as a site for the new engine company, No. 30, for which appropriations have been obtained. This site is located on the southeast corner of Sixteenth and Webster Streets NW., and the property is well suited for the purposes desired. Great credit is due Maj. L. E. Atkins, assistant to the engineer commissioner, for his untiring efforts looking toward the acquisition of this land. Plans for the house will be prepared immediately by the office of the municipal architect, and it is expected that the new house will be placed in service some time during the coming fiscal year.

## RESCUE SQUADS

Rescue Squad No. 1 of the fire department, placed in service on January 20, 1925, has continued to demonstrate its efficiency during the year. Its officers and members responded to 244 box alarms, 84 local alarms, and to 3 special calls on additional alarm fires.

The apparatus was used as an ambulance in removing ill and injured persons to the hospital upon 20 occasions.

First aid was rendered for incised wounds 10 times; for burns, 8 times; for drowning, 5 times; for gas poisoning, 13 times; for cave-ins, 3 times; and for attacks of unconsciousness, 5 times. Artificial respiration was administered to patients on 18 occasions.

Gas masks were used to search and ventilate buildings during fires upon 51 occasions. At 14 fires the crew of the squad, by the use of gas masks, was able to enter smoke and gas-filled buildings where other members of the department could not have existed. Also upon 20 occasions the masks were used by the squad for the purpose of stopping leaks in ammonia and gas lines.

Life belts and life lines were used in rescue work five times.

Upon 19 occasions (a total of 10 hours) lights were generated from the apparatus to illuminate the interior and exterior of buildings at fires.

Upon one occasion the squad used a 10-ton jack to raise a street car from the tracks to remove a boy from beneath the same.

The foregoing, while not covering all of the many duties performed by the squad, gives some idea of the variety of the work which it is called upon to do.

Lacking funds for the purchase of special equipment and the employment of additional men to place in service another rescue squad company, the department in its own shop reconstructed a hose wagon in order that it might be used to carry the many special tools and appliances incident to squad service; and with the assistance of the American Red Cross trained officers and members of No. 11 engine company, located on Fourteenth Street between Irving and Kenyon Streets NW., in life-saving and first-aid work. This was completed and the unit placed in service as a combination engine company and rescue squad on June 18, 1927. Upon receipt of oxygen breathing apparatus, the purchase of which is now approaching completion, this new organization will be given regular assignments on the fire department running book as "Rescue Squad No. 2." This will afford the upper northwest portion of the city squad protection and will relieve to a great extent Rescue Squad No. 1, which at the present time is assigned to locations too far removed from its quarters.

#### NEW APPARATUS

The following new apparatus was received and placed in service during the year:

Two pumping engines, 750-gallon capacity, received in October, 1926, and placed in service in No. 10 engine company and No. 28 engine company.

One pumping engine, 1,000-gallon capacity, received in October, 1926, and placed in service in No. 9 engine company.

Three combination hose wagons, received in November, 1926, and placed in service in No. 11 engine company, No. 12 engine company and No. 24 engine company.

One aerial truck, received in November, 1926, and placed in service in No. 14 truck company.

One seven-passenger touring car, received in December, 1926, and assigned to the chief engineer.

#### UNIFORMS

Under the act of Congress approved May 25, 1926, authorizing the appropriation of not to exceed \$75 per annum for each member of the fire department, to be expended for furnishing uniforms and other official equipment, the commissioners, under date of August 24, 1926, issued detailed rules and regulations governing the purchase, care, and use of articles acquired under the said act.

Contracts were entered into and the first purchases were ordered under date of October 29, 1926.

The system of uniform accounts adopted by the department, has worked smoothly, and the uniform inspection board, consisting of one battalion chief engineer and two captains, together with a private detailed as assistant and clerk, has made several inspections and recommended appropriate purchases of clothing, etc., needed for replacement purposes.

Certain changes were made in the style of uniforms and insignia, all of which have resulted in improved appearance of the men.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

During the fiscal year 1927 the chief engineer served as chairman of a committee, appointed by authority of Congress, charged with the duty of considering and reporting upon the installation of a high-pressure water system in the congested high-value section of the District of Columbia.

The committee fulfilled the purpose for which it was appointed, and a detailed report has been forwarded to the commissioners.

I invite attention to the findings and recommendations made by the committee, particularly with reference to the vital necessity for additional water mains, fire hydrants, and fire-alarm boxes, and request that all possible steps be taken to relieve the situation. It is one which should not be permitted to continue.

Recommendations for other improvements in the service involving the necessity of additional funds have been forwarded to the commissioners in the form of estimates for the fiscal year 1929.

## CONCLUSION

I express to the commissioners my sincere appreciation of the support which they have accorded me during the year just closed. To that support, together with the unfailing loyalty and efficiency of the fire department's personnel and the cooperation of the public, I attribute the progress which the department has made during the year.

GEO. S. WATSON,  
*Chief Engineer.*

# APPENDIX I

## REPORT OF THE FIRE MARSHAL

WASHINGTON, July 1, 1927.

To the CHIEF ENGINEER, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FIRE DEPARTMENT:

I submit the following report of activities of the fire marshal's office for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1927:

During the year 3,088 alarms of fire were received and investigated by this office. This is a decrease of 559 compared with the number received during the preceding year. Of these 3,088 alarms of fire, 1,447 were box alarms, a decrease of 152 box alarms compared with the number received during the preceding year; 1,641 were local alarms or telephone calls, a decrease of 407 local alarms compared with the number received during the preceding year.

The loss caused by the 1,447 box alarms is estimated at \$617,833, part of which is covered by insurance of \$16,874,035. The loss caused by the 1,641 local alarms is estimated at \$57,546, part of which is covered by insurance of \$13,177,765. The total loss for the fiscal year is estimated at \$675,379, a fraction over 2.24 per cent of the total insurance of \$30,051,800.

During the year 18 fires occurred for which additional alarms were received. They were as follows:

August 14, 1926, box 968 at 5.58 p. m., followed by a second at 6.09 p. m., for fire in barn and dairy at the Home for the Aged, Blue Plains, D. C.; estimated loss-----	\$13,000
November 24, 1926, box 8162 at 2.50 a. m., followed by a second at 3.08 a. m., for fire in the eight-story brick Argonne apartment house located at 1629 Columbia Road NW.; estimated loss-----	2,650
November 28, 1926, box 669 at 8.47 a. m., followed by a second at 8.58 a. m., and a third at 9.09 a. m., for fire in a one-story frame church located at Thirteenth and Newton Streets NE.; estimated loss-----	34,000
November 28, 1926, box 731 at 7.16 p. m., followed by a second at 7.22 p. m., for fire in a one-story brick garage and two frame buildings adjoining, located at 1039-1041 Thirtieth Street NW.; estimated loss-----	27,200
December 1, 1926, box 664 at 11.17 a. m., followed by a second at 11.20 a. m., for fire in a two-story brick storage building located at 118 Q Street NE.; estimated loss-----	3,600
December 19, 1926, box 183 at 4.43 a. m., followed by a third, fourth, and fifth alarm, for fire in a three-story brick and a five-story brick store located at 1210 and 1212 G Street NW.; estimated loss-----	137,815
January 6, 1927, box 295 at 5.41 p. m., followed by a second at 5.55 p. m. and a third at 6.05 p. m., for fire in a three-story brick store located at 931 to 935 Fifth Street NW.; estimated loss-----	14,500
January 11, 1927, box 12 at 4.31 p. m., followed by a second at 4.35 p. m., for fire in a three-story brick wheelright shop located in Kuox Alley near Second Street NW.; estimated loss-----	3,982
January 14, 1927, box 214 at 8.54 a. m., followed by a second at 9 a. m., for fire in a two-story brick store and apartments located at 1744 Seventh Street NW.; estimated loss-----	13,971
February 2, 1927, box 566 at 5.33 p. m., followed by a second at 5.38 p. m., and a third at 5.43 p. m., for fire in a two-story brick storage house located at the United States Navy Yard; estimated loss-----	600
February 8, 1927, box 184 at 2.25 p. m., followed by a second at 2.30 p. m., for fire in a six-story brick hotel located at 601 Pennsylvania Avenue NW.; estimated loss-----	1,000
February 13, 1927, box 89 at 3.58 a. m., followed by a second at 4.04 a. m., and a third at 4.16 a. m., for fire in a five-story brick apartment house located at 1412 Chapin Street NW.; estimate loss-----	2,180
March 10, 1927, box 433 at 10.30 a. m., followed by a second at 10.34 a. m., for fire in a three-story brick wheelwright shop located at 50 and 52 Canal Street SW.; estimated loss-----	6,200
April 10, 1927, box 419 at 5.19 p. m., followed by a second at 5.26 p. m., and a third at 5.34 p. m., for fire in two one-story frame lumber sheds and a two-story frame dwelling located at 605 South Capitol Street and 41 G Street SW., respectively; estimated loss-----	30,631
April 14, 1927, box 315 at 9.16 a. m., followed by a second at 9.22 a. m., for fire in a four-story brick apartment house and stores located at northeast corner of Twenty-first and M Streets NW.; estimated loss--	1,585

April 22, 1927, box 277 at 3.22 p. m., followed by a second at 3.26 p. m., and a third at 3.32 p. m., for fire in a three-story brick waste-paper warehouse located at 71-77 O Street NW.; estimated loss-----	\$8,000
May 5, 1927, box 897 at 1 p. m., followed by a second at 1.09 p. m., and a third at 1.12 p. m., for fire in a two-story brick apartment house located at 410 Cedar Street NW.; estimated loss-----	37,882
May 9, 1927, box 12 at 9.44 a. m., followed by a second at 9.51 a. m., for fire in a three-story brick apartment house located at 512 Second Street NW.; estimated loss-----	4,600

It will be noted that 10 of the foregoing fires involved a loss each of \$5,000 or more. In addition to these 10 fires, 8 other fires occurred in the District of Columbia during the year, involving a loss, each, of \$5,000 or more, for which only single alarms were sounded. They were as follows:

July 15, 1926, box 186 at 4.46 a. m., fire in three-story brick drug store located at 1235 Pennsylvania Avenue NW.; estimated loss-----	17,797
October 19, 1926, box 7151 at 1.10 p. m., for fire in two-story frame dwelling located at 2909 Brandywine Street NW.; estimated loss-----	5,600
October 22, 1926, box 877 at 5.39 p. m., for fire in a one-story stone storage house located at Bennings, D. C.; estimated loss-----	14,000
December 13, 1926, box 131 at 9.03 p. m., for fire in a three-story brick store located at 919 F Street NW.; estimated loss-----	17,265
December 21, 1926, box 287 at 5.28 a. m., for fire in a one-story brick dry-goods store located at 2000 Eighteenth Street NW.; estimated loss-----	5,582
January 20, 1927, box 269 at 9.13 p. m., for fire in two-story frame storage houses located at 909-911 Eighth Street NW.; estimated loss-----	7,000
February 20, 1927, box 231 at 10.56 p. m., for fire in two four-story brick stores located at 1326-1328 Seventh Street NW.; estimated loss-----	9,705
April 19, 1927, box 814 at 4.10 a. m., for fire in a three-story stone office building located at 3304 Fourteenth Street NW.; estimated loss-----	5,100
Total-----	425,445
Loss for the remaining 3,062 fires-----	249,934
Total loss for the year-----	675,379

## FIRE-LOSS COMPARISON

The loss for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1927, when compared with the loss for the preceding year shows a decrease of \$593,575. More than one-third of the total loss was caused by five fires, namely, church at Thirteenth and Newton Streets NW.; \$34,000; garage and two frame buildings adjoining located at 1039-1041 Thirtieth Street NW.; \$27,000; stores located at 1210-1212 G Street NW.; \$137,815; apartment house located at 410 Cedar Street NW.; \$37,882; lumber sheds and frame dwelling located at 605 South Capitol Street and 41 G Street SW.; \$30,631 making a total for these five fires of \$267,328.

During the year the District of Columbia fire department responded to 37 fires at near-by points in Maryland and Virginia and rendered all aid possible to the local department in extinguishing these fires and protecting surrounding property.

## PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF FIRES

Automobiles back-firing, electric wires short-circuited, gasoline leaking, gasoline fumes ignited-----	473
Brush, grass, leaves, and trash burning-----	224
Chimneys, soot caught fire, defective, overheated-----	270
Electric wires and electric appliances-----	117
Matches, carelessness with, children playing with, rats gnawing-----	199
Smoking, careless-----	351
Sparks-----	114
Stoves-----	75

## FALSE ALARMS

During the year 379 false alarms were received, an increase of 82, as compared with the preceding year. Members of the fire marshal's office and the police department made thorough investigation in each case. A man was ar-

rested in connection with one of these cases and is out on bond awaiting a jury trial. The guilty parties in the other cases were not apprehended.

#### INCENDIARY AND SUSPICIOUS FIRES

During the year there were 27 fires of a suspicious nature and 7 undoubtedly of incendiary origin. One man was arrested in one of these cases, and because of insufficient evidence he was released; a white boy 14 years of age was apprehended in another case and was found to be of unsound mind and was sent to an asylum, and in still another case a white man was arrested and is being held for observation as to his sanity. All cases were thoroughly investigated by this office and the police department.

#### PROSECUTIONS FOR VIOLATION OF FIRE-PREVENTION REGULATIONS

During the year there were 13 cases in which warrants were obtained for violation of the fire-prevention regulations. In 10 of these cases the parties were fined by the court, and in the remaining cases the parties were released after complying with the inspector's notice.

#### FOURTH OF JULY FIRES

There were only 3 fires caused by fireworks during the Fourth of July celebration of this year. This is a decrease of 1 as compared with last year.

#### INFLAMMABLE OILS, AMMUNITION, AND EXPLOSIVES

During the fiscal year 1,380 applications to handle kerosene were received and acted upon by this office.

There were installed and put into operation 959 oil-burning plants, making a total of 3,038 plants of this character now in the District of Columbia. In addition to these, there are now pending about 153 applications for the installation of oil-burning plants.

Three hundred and ninety-four gasoline tanks were installed in the District of Columbia during the fiscal year. Before these installations were made, as was also the case with the oil-burning plants, careful inspections were made by inspectors of this office to see that the regulations would be complied with, and final inspections were made after the installations were in. At the end of the fiscal year there were in operation in the District of Columbia 468 gasoline stations.

Fifty-eight applications for license to handle ammunition for small arms, other than cartridges for pistols, were approved by this office.

#### INSPECTIONS

The total number of inspections made during the year by the corps of inspectors connected with the fire marshal's office was 63,460; of this number 1,948 were complaints. Five thousand six hundred and fifty-six notices were served to remedy conditions creating fire hazards.

In addition to the above inspections, 110,692 inspections were made of apartment houses, hotels, asylums, private and public schools, etc., by firemen connected with the various fire stations.

All motion-picture theaters and open-air motion-picture parks in the District of Columbia were inspected to see that all fire appliances were in proper working order prior to issuance of annual licenses. Each motion-picture theater and open-air motion-picture park, in addition to the foregoing inspections, was inspected by members of the fire marshal's office at least once each week while the theater or park was open to the public. All told, there were 55 motion-picture theaters and motion-picture parks in operation during the year. In addition to these there were in operation 12 "legitimate" theaters.

As in former years, a uniformed member of the fire department was detailed for duty at each performance in the "legitimate" theaters. All scenery arriving in the District for use in any of them was tested as to fireproof qualities.

In many halls and places of public assembly, where entertainments were held, one or more uniformed firemen were in attendance during each entertainment, and it was seen by members of this office that all scenery and decorations of a combustible nature used in connection with these gatherings were treated with a fireproof solution.

#### MOTION-PICTURE OPERATORS

During the year 52 parties were examined in this office who applied for permits to operate motion-picture machines.

## MOTION-PICTURE FILM EXCHANGES

An inspector of this office detailed especially for the inspection of film exchanges makes a test once each week of the sprinkler system in all film exchanges in the District, and at least three times each week he makes a thorough inspection of all the exchanges, including several Government motion-picture laboratories and film storage rooms.

## CONCLUSION

In closing this report permit me to express my appreciation for the cooperation given me during the year by members of the fire marshal's office, and of the various fire stations, who assisted in the work of inspecting and reducing fire hazards.

L. V. SEIB, *Fire Marshal.*

## Number of alarms responded to by companies

	First alarm	Second alarm	Third alarm	Fourth alarm	Fifth alarm	Sixth alarm	Local alarm	Pumping time engine and wagon	Hose laid	Hose bursted	Ladders raised	Fire extinguished by chemicals		Hand pumps used	Transfers	Special alarms
								<i>H. M.</i>	<i>Feet</i>	<i>Feet</i>	<i>Feet</i>	Hand	Wagon			
Engine company No.—																
1.	255	3	2	—	—	—	94	35 00	45,550	—	102	31	61	6	12	—
2.	222	7	1	—	—	—	104	40 15	27,400	100	128	4	100	3	3	—
3.	260	7	1	—	—	—	54	42 00	31,450	100	64	18	51	6	7	—
4.	190	2	1	—	—	—	41	20 00	11,350	50	80	7	30	5	4	—
5.	99	—	—	1	—	—	53	45 40	23,750	—	108	12	31	13	1	—
6.	368	2	4	—	—	—	48	44 30	27,550	50	36	33	31	—	9	—
7.	336	4	2	—	—	—	93	66 00	27,450	150	276	8	127	6	12	—
8.	265	4	—	—	—	—	41	22 25	27,800	150	—	42	21	15	10	—
9.	242	2	3	—	—	—	119	30 5	40,550	100	172	21	62	7	5	—
10.	208	2	2	1	—	—	61	37 00	22,000	250	88	27	45	1	1	1
11.	225	1	—	1	—	—	97	39 50	29,950	—	—	28	29	6	—	—
12.	227	2	3	—	—	—	40	34 00	20,450	—	44	30	32	5	7	—
13.	142	5	2	—	—	—	23	21 00	14,500	50	—	24	13	5	7	—
14.	245	4	2	—	—	—	43	53 15	20,650	100	76	17	52	4	—	—
15.	56	1	—	—	1	—	29	24 10	14,450	50	104	12	12	4	2	—
16.	196	5	4	—	—	—	31	28 00	14,100	50	64	30	15	7	4	—
17.	64	1	—	—	1	—	37	26 00	12,000	50	100	—	12	6	3	—
18.	217	2	—	—	1	—	35	31 30	18,750	—	120	17	33	12	3	—
19.	52	1	—	—	—	—	24	10 45	8,750	150	88	5	4	3	1	—
20.	35	—	1	—	—	—	48	6 00	7,250	—	44	8	9	6	—	—
21.	159	1	—	—	—	1	48	32 00	20,000	50	—	16	8	6	5	—
22.	70	—	—	—	—	—	70	24 5	19,750	100	64	18	—	2	1	—
23.	159	—	2	—	—	—	56	36 20	22,950	200	12	22	30	6	5	—
24.	147	1	—	—	1	—	72	28 10	20,600	50	40	24	52	—	2	—
25.	29	—	1	—	—	—	25	22 00	12,250	—	76	19	6	3	—	—
26.	47	—	—	—	—	—	35	20 30	9,850	—	40	4	3	3	4	—
27.	26	—	—	—	—	—	37	11 00	8,150	150	30	8	10	—	1	—
28.	44	2	—	—	1	—	59	8 30	10,300	50	—	9	13	4	3	—
29.	19	1	—	—	—	—	19	4 00	3,050	—	40	5	3	2	6	—
Truck company No.—																
1.	182	6	1	—	—	—	33	—	—	—	3,158	3	—	1	4	—
2.	196	2	1	—	—	—	86	—	—	—	2,426	19	—	7	7	—
3.	186	2	2	—	—	—	50	—	—	—	3,281	4	—	6	6	—
4.	367	1	1	—	—	—	71	—	—	—	3,748	18	—	1	6	—
5.	32	—	—	—	—	—	24	—	—	—	418	5	—	4	2	—
6.	167	—	—	1	—	—	40	—	—	—	2,621	6	—	1	1	—
7.	135	3	—	—	1	—	36	—	—	—	695	15	—	4	—	—
8.	32	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	661	7	3	—	1	—
9.	97	2	1	1	—	—	18	—	—	—	588	1	—	1	1	—
10.	145	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	1,705	15	—	4	4	—
11.	45	—	—	—	—	—	32	—	—	—	857	—	2	—	—	—
12.	28	—	1	—	—	—	13	—	—	—	112	1	—	—	—	—
13.	122	1	—	—	—	—	27	—	—	—	927	28	—	8	—	—
14.	18	—	1	—	—	—	22	—	—	—	334	1	—	6	—	—
Fireboat No. 1.	16	1	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Rescue squad.	244	—	—	—	—	—	84	13 00	—	—	40	—	—	—	—	—
Water tower.	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1 45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

*Causes for which alarms of fire were sounded during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1927*

	Num- ber		Num- ber
Alarms, false.....	379	Alarms, no fire—Continued.....	
Alarms, no fire:		Woman struck by automobile.....	1
Ammonia escaping.....	14	Woman tried to commit suicide.....	3
Automobiles marooned in deep water.....	1	Woman unconscious from inhaling illuminating gas (accidental).....	2
Automobile ran into creek.....	1	Aleohol torch, carelessness with.....	1
Automobile overturned.....	1	Aleohol torch ignited paper.....	1
Boiler bursted.....	2	Ashes (hot) thrown or fell on combustibles.....	20
Boiler exploded.....	1	Automobiles:	
Boiler overheated.....	2	Alcohol dropped on hot exhaust pipe.....	2
Bank caved in on boy.....	2	Backfiring.....	114
Boy drowned in swimming pool.....	1	Backed into burning dump.....	1
Boy drowned in sewer.....	1	Brake bands smoking.....	10
Boy entangled under street car.....	1	Carburetor leaking; flooded.....	19
Boy's foot caught in sewer pipe.....	1	Careless smoking.....	1
Boy knocked down by trolley car.....	1	Children set old truck afire.....	1
Cellar flooded.....	1	Cleaning with gasoline; kerosene.....	6
Child's head caught in fence.....	1	Collided with pole.....	1
Child locked in room.....	1	Collision between two automobiles.....	3
Collision between automobile and trolley car.....	1	Collision between street car and automobile.....	3
Collision between automobile and wagon.....	1	Electric wires short-circuited.....	239
Elevator carrying man fell from third floor to basement.....	1	Engine overheated.....	4
Engine overheated.....	1	Exhaust pipe broken.....	1
Family sick with ptomaine poison.....	1	Exhaust pipe overheated.....	6
Fire-alarm bells in apartment house rang accidentally.....	3	Gasoline dropped on engine.....	1
Fumes from sulphur candle.....	1	Gasoline dropped on hot exhaust pipe.....	19
Gas escaping.....	1	Gasoline fumes ignited from open flame.....	7
Gas in combustion chamber exploded.....	1	Gasoline leaking from gasoline line.....	7
Gas in sewer exploded.....	2	Gasoline tank exploded when boy threw lighted match in tank.....	1
Gasket in ammonia pipe blew out.....	13	Grease on brake bands caught fire.....	1
Girl locked in bathroom.....	1	Looking for leak with lighted match.....	1
Hot-water coil bursted.....	1	Looking into carburetor with lighted candle.....	1
Hot-water heater exploded.....	1	Looking in gasoline tank with lighted match.....	1
Hot-water heater overheated.....	1	Muffler blew off.....	1
Man became sick on roof.....	1	Muffler ignited straw.....	1
Man drove automobile over seawall into river and was drowned.....	1	Muffler overheated.....	2
Man, drunk, standing on third-story window ledge.....	1	Oily rags ignited from hot exhaust pipe.....	2
Man entangled under street car.....	2	Overturned and caught fire.....	1
Man fell down stairs and was fatally injured.....	1	Radiator leaking.....	1
Man fell through skylight.....	2	Rags left in engine.....	1
Man knocked down by automobile.....	1	Rags on hot exhaust pipe.....	2
Man inhaled illuminating gas (accidental).....	7	Sawdust dropped on hot exhaust pipe.....	1
Man overcome by illuminating gas.....	1	Straw dropped on hot exhaust pipe.....	1
Man shot women and himself while in automobile; both died.....	1	Tail lamp caught fire.....	3
Man sick; rescue squad took him to hospital.....	1	Transmission grease ignited.....	1
Man sick, having taken poison to commit suicide.....	1	Unknown origin.....	4
Man sick on street.....	2	Vacuum tank leaking.....	1
Men buried under bank which caved in on them.....	2	Wood dropped through hole on exhaust pipe.....	1
People died from inhalation of illuminating gas (accidental).....	3	Back fire from carburetor of cement mixing machine.....	1
Reflection of fire in furnace.....	4	Boiling clothes in mixture of water and gasoline.....	1
Reflection of fire in salamander.....	1	Bonfire.....	1
Reflection of light mistaken for fire.....	6	Bonfire ignited shed.....	1
Refrigerator having excessive supply of gas.....	1	Brush, grass, leaves, and trash burning.....	224
Safety plug blew out of pressing machine.....	1	Bunsen burner made from gasoline tank exploded.....	1
Seaw caught under shed on wharf.....	1	Bunsen burner ignited clothing.....	1
Seaw sinking.....	1	Can of paint exploded.....	1
Smokestack fell.....	1	Candles (sulphur) fumigating with.....	3
Sparks from incinerator mistaken for house afire.....	1	Candle (wax) too close to combustibles.....	1
Sprinkler head accidentally opened.....	1	Can of disinfectant on stove, ignited.....	1
Steam escaping.....	27	Carelessness with fire.....	14
Steel bed spring stuck in man's arm.....	1	Child with lighted candle ignited lace curtain.....	1
Sulphur fumes escaping.....	2	Children playing with fire.....	48
Tree blown down by storm.....	8	Chimney, defective.....	42
Water back in coal range exploded.....	1	Chimney flue overheated; defective.....	12
Water pipe bursted.....	4	Chimney overheated.....	3
Water spigot left open and flooded room.....	1	Chimney, soot in, caught fire.....	213
Woman locked in apartment; lock would not unfasten.....	1	Clothes boiled dry on stove.....	6
		Coal (soft) piled against heating plant.....	1
		Controller box short-circuited.....	1
		Defective patch on film caused it to ignite.....	1
		Electric cable short-circuited.....	1
		Electric fan short-circuited.....	2
		Electric floor plug short-circuited.....	1

*Causes for which alarms of fire were sounded during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1927—Continued*

	Num- ber		Num- ber
Electric extension cord short-circuited.....	2	Incendary fires.....	7
Electric heater, current left on.....	1	Insulation burning from wires on pole.....	2
Electric heater ignited floor.....	1	Iron (hot) left on ironing board.....	2
Electric iron, current left on.....	20	Kerosene oil hot-water heater caught fire.....	1
Electric lamp fell on bed and ignited same.....	1	Kindling wood piled too close to kitchen range.....	1
Electric motor overheated; defective; short-circuited.....	12	Lamps (kerosene) exploded, upset, too close to combustibles.....	20
Electric switch box short-circuited.....	1	Lights burning in church mistaken for church fire.....	1
Electric wire on Christmas tree short-circuited.....	1	Lightning, struck by.....	1
Electric wire in conduit short-circuited.....	1	Lime burning.....	1
Electric wire in frigidaire short-circuited.....	2	Lime ignited paper and trash with which it was mixed.....	1
Electric wire in lamp short-circuited.....	4	Lint and paper in grill of one-pipe furnace.....	1
Electric wire in machine short-circuited.....	3	Man's clothing ignited while building fire.....	1
Electric wires in houses short-circuited.....	28	Matches.....	1
Electric wires on pole short-circuited.....	9	Carelessness with.....	131
Electric wire in slot rail short-circuited.....	1	Children playing with.....	6
Electric wire in street short-circuited.....	17	Rats gnawing matches.....	1
Electric wire in street car slot rail short-circuited.....	7	Mischievous fires.....	2
Electric wire in switch box short-circuited.....	1	Motion-picture film caught in sprocket wheel.....	1
Exhaust pipe overheated.....	1	Motor in frigidaire short-circuited.....	1
Exhaust pipe from pressing machine ignited paper.....	1	Oil ignited while being heated.....	1
Fats, meats, grease, and foodstuff burning on stoves.....	45	Oily rags on steam-pipe.....	1
Film caught in teeth of sprocket wheel.....	1	Oil-burning furnaces.....	1
Fire in open fireplace ignited floor.....	1	Accumulation of carbon around burner.....	1
Fireplace overheated; defective.....	5	Back-fired.....	1
Fireworks ignited awning; sheds.....	3	Defective.....	1
Flame under tar pot mistaken for house fire.....	1	Electric wire short-circuited.....	1
Flame from broken gas pipe.....	1	Ignited joists under concrete base.....	1
Flame from oil burner mistaken for house fire.....	1	Improperly adjusted.....	1
Flue, defective.....	3	Improper combustion.....	1
Friction ignited contents of clothes drier.....	1	Joint in pipe leaking and oil ignited.....	1
Furnace back-fired.....	1	Motor overheated.....	1
Furnace, combustibles too close.....	8	Overheated furnace.....	1
Furnace, defective installation.....	8	Oil flowing in fire box.....	1
Furnace hot-air pipe too near wood partition.....	1	Pilot light went out.....	18
Furnace (one-pipe) ignited rug placed over register.....	1	Trip failed to work.....	1
Furnace overheated.....	3	Paint exploded.....	1
Gas escaping, ignited.....	22	Paint remover ignited from electric floor plug.....	1
Gas from soft coal ignited.....	1	Painter's torch, carelessness with.....	4
Gas heater exploded.....	2	Paper burning in hood of heater.....	1
Gas heater on printing press ignited paper.....	1	Plumber's furnace ignited tar pot.....	1
Gas hot-water heater ignited dress on woman.....	1	Plumber's torch exploded.....	1
Gas jet, combustibles too close.....	1	Pot of wax boiling over and ignited.....	1
Gas jet leaking and gas blazing.....	3	Rags behind bathtub stove caught fire.....	1
Gas lamp-pot broken and escaping gas ignited.....	2	Rags on top of oven caught fire.....	1
Gas left burning in drier.....	1	Rekindling of old fire.....	4
Gas light mistaken for house fire.....	2	Rubber hose attached to gas burner, dis-connected.....	1
Gas lighter too close to combustibles.....	6	Salamander ignited lumber.....	1
Gas stove hose became disconnected, gas ignited.....	1	Smokepipe, defective, extended through woodwork; overheated, too close to wood work.....	88
Gasoline.....	1	Smokepipe fell.....	1
Carelessness with.....	5	Smokepipe holes, covered with combustible material; left open.....	8
Cleaning with.....	15	Smoke pipe.....	100
Flames ignited from open flame.....	6	Smokestack ignited scaffold built around same.....	1
Heater caught fire.....	1	Smoking, careless.....	84
Kindling fire with.....	3	Sparks fell on combustibles.....	1
Match dropped in.....	1	Sparks mistaken for house fire.....	1
On street ignited.....	2	Spontaneous combustion.....	1
Overflowing from torch ignited.....	2	Steam boiler ignited superstructure around same.....	1
Pipe in motor boat leaking.....	1	Steampipe ignited block of wood.....	1
Spilled in street, ignited.....	2	Static electricity.....	1
Too close to open flame.....	2	Sterno lamp ignited clothing.....	1
Torch ignited push cart.....	1	Stoves, caught fire, carelessness with stove.....	1
Torch overturned.....	1	Tive, exploded, overheated, too close to combustibles.....	1
Grease hood, defective installation.....	1	Street car slot rail short-circuited.....	1
Grease stack afire.....	3	Sulphur candle, hanging top with suspicious fire.....	1
Grease vent caught fire.....	1	Tar pot caught fire.....	1
Hot-air duct overheated.....	1	Tar pot overturned, caught fire.....	1
Hot coal from locomotive ignited railroad trestle.....	1	Tinner's furnace, carelessness with.....	1
Hot-water heaters, defective, exploded, caught fire; too close to woodwork.....	6	Tinning brass water pipe.....	1
		Tobacco pipe put in coat pocket while lighted.....	1

*Causes for which alarms of fire were sounded during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1927*

	Number		Number
Alarms, false.....	379	Alarms, no fire—Continued.	
Alarms, no fire:		Woman struck by automobile.....	1
Ammonia escaping.....	14	Woman tried to commit suicide.....	3
Automobiles marooned in deep water.....	1	Woman unconscious from inhaling illuminating gas (accidental).....	2
Automobile ran into creek.....	1	Alcohol torch, carelessness with.....	1
Automobile overturned.....	1	Alcohol torch ignited paper.....	1
Boiler burst.....	2	Ashes (hot) thrown or fell on combustibles.....	20
Boiler exploded.....	1	Automobiles:	
Boiler overheated.....	2	Alcohol dropped on hot exhaust pipe.....	2
Bank caved in on boy.....	2	Backfiring.....	114
Boy drowned in swimming pool.....	1	Backed into burning dump.....	1
Boy drowned in sewer.....	1	Brake bands smoking.....	10
Boy entangled under street car.....	1	Carburetor leaking; flooded.....	19
Boy's foot caught in sewer pipe.....	1	Careless smoking.....	1
Boy knocked down by trolley car.....	1	Children set old truck afire.....	1
Cellar flooded.....	1	Cleaning with gasoline; kerosene.....	6
Child's head caught in fence.....	1	Collided with pole.....	1
Child locked in room.....	1	Collision between two automobiles.....	3
Collision between automobik and trolley car.....	1	Collision between street car and automobile.....	3
Collision between automobile and wagon.....	1	Electric wires short-circuited.....	239
Elevator carrying man fell from third floor to basement.....	1	Engine overheated.....	4
Engine overheated.....	1	Exhaust pipe broken.....	1
Family sick with ptomaine poison.....	1	Exhaust pipe overheated.....	6
Fire-alarm bells in apartment house rang accidentally.....	3	Gasoline dropped on engine.....	1
Fumes from sulphur candle.....	1	Gasoline dropped on hot exhaust pipe.....	19
Gas escaping.....	1	Gasoline fumes ignited from open flame.....	7
Gas in combustion chamber exploded.....	1	Gasoline leaking from gasoline line.....	7
Gas in sewer exploded.....	2	Gasoline tank exploded when boy threw lighted match in tank.....	1
Gasket in ammonia pipe blew out.....	13	Grease on brake bands caught fire.....	1
Girl locked in bathroom.....	1	Looking for leak with lighted match.....	1
Hot-water coil burst.....	1	Looking into carburetor with lighted candle.....	1
Hot-water heater exploded.....	1	Looking in gasoline tank with lighted match.....	1
Hot-water heater overheated.....	1	Muffler blew off.....	1
Man became sick on roof.....	1	Muffler ignited straw.....	1
Man drove automobile over seawall into river and was drowned.....	1	Muffler overheated.....	2
Man, drunk, standing on third-story window ledge.....	1	Oily rags ignited from hot exhaust pipe.....	2
Man entangled under street car.....	2	Overturned and caught fire.....	1
Man fell down stairs and was fatally injured.....	1	Radiator leaking.....	1
Man fell through skylight.....	2	Rags left in engine.....	1
Man knocked down by automobile.....	1	Rags on hot exhaust pipe.....	2
Man inhaled illuminating gas (accidental).....	7	Sawdust dropped on hot exhaust pipe.....	1
Man overcome by illuminating gas.....	1	Straw dropped on hot exhaust pipe.....	1
Man shot women and himself while in automobile; both died.....	1	Tail lamp caught fire.....	3
Man sick; rescue squad took him to hospital.....	1	Transmission grease ignited.....	1
Man sick, having taken poison to commit suicide.....	1	Unknown origin.....	4
Man sick on street.....	2	Vacuum tank leaking.....	1
Man buried under bank which caved in on them.....	2	Wood dropped through hole on exhaust pipe.....	1
People died from inhalation of illuminating gas (accidental).....	3	Back fire from carburetor of cement mixing machine.....	1
Reflection of fire in furnace.....	4	Boiling clothes in mixture of water and gasoline.....	1
Reflection of fire in salamander.....	1	Bonfire.....	1
Reflection of light mistaken for fire.....	6	Bonfire ignited shed.....	1
Refrigerator having excessive supply of gas.....	1	Brush, grass, leaves, and trash burning.....	224
Safety plug blew out of pressing machine.....	1	Bunsen burner made from gasoline tank exploded.....	1
Scow caught under shed on wharf.....	1	Bunsen burner ignited clothing.....	1
Scow sinking.....	1	Can of paint exploded.....	1
Smokestack fell.....	1	Candles (sulphur) fumigating with.....	3
Sparks from incinerator mistaken for house afire.....	1	Candle (wax) too close to combustibles.....	1
Sprinkler head accidentally opened.....	1	Can of disinfectant on stove, ignited.....	1
Steam escaping.....	27	Carelessness with fire.....	14
Steel bed spring stuck in man's arm.....	1	Child with lighted candle ignited lace curtain.....	1
Sulphur fumes escaping.....	2	Children playing with fire.....	48
Tree blown down by storm.....	8	Chimney, defective.....	42
Water back in coal range exploded.....	1	Chimney flue overheated; defective.....	12
Water pipe burst.....	1	Chimney overheated.....	3
Water spigot left open and flooded room.....	4	Chimney, soot in, caught fire.....	213
Woman locked in apartment; lock would not unfasten.....	1	Clothes boiled dry on stove.....	6
		Coal (soft) piled against heating plant.....	1
		Controller box short circuited.....	1
		Defective patch on film caused it to ignite.....	1
		Electric cable short-circuited.....	1
		Electric fan short-circuited.....	2
		Electric floor plug short-circuited.....	1



*Causes for which alarms of fire were sounded during the fiscal year ending  
June 30, 1927—Continued*

	Number		Number
Electric extension cord short-circuited.....	2	Incendiary fires.....	7
Electric heater, current left on.....	1	Insulation burning from wires on pole.....	2
Electric heater ignited floor.....	1	Iron (hot) left on ironing board.....	2
Electric iron, current left on.....	20	Kerosene oil hot-water heater caught fire.....	1
Electric lamp fell on bed and ignited same.....	1	Kindling wood piled too close to kitchen range.....	1
Electric motor overheated; defective; short-circuited.....	12	Lamps (kerosene) exploded; upset; too close to combustibles.....	20
Electric switch box short-circuited.....	1	Lights burning in church mistaken for church afire.....	1
Electric wire on Christmas tree short-circuited.....	1	Lightning, struck by.....	8
Electric wire in conduit short-circuited.....	1	Lime burning.....	1
Electric wire in frigidaire short-circuited.....	2	Lime ignited paper and trash with which it was mixed.....	1
Electric wire in lamp short-circuited.....	4	Lint and paper in grill of one-pipe furnace.....	1
Electric wire in machine short-circuited.....	3	Man's clothing ignited while building fire.....	1
Electric wires in houses short-circuited.....	28	Matches:	
Electric wires on pole short-circuited.....	9	Carelessness with.....	131
Electric wire in slot rail short-circuited.....	1	Children playing with.....	63
Electric wire in street short-circuited.....	17	Rats gnawing matches.....	5
Electric wire in street car slot rail short-circuited.....	7	Mischievous fires.....	2
Electric wire in switch box short-circuited.....	1	Motion-picture film caught in sproket wheel.....	1
Exhaust pipe overheated.....	1	Motor in frigidaire short-circuited.....	1
Exhaust pipe from pressing machine ignited paper.....	1	Oil ignited while being heated.....	2
Fats, meats, grease, and foodstuff burning on stoves.....	45	Oily rags on steampipe.....	1
Film caught in teeth of sprocket wheel.....	1	Oil-burning furnaces:	
Fire in open fireplace ignited floor.....	1	Accumulation of carbon around burner.....	2
Fireplace overheated; defective.....	5	Back-fired.....	1
Fireworks ignited awning; sheds.....	3	Defective.....	2
Flame under tar pot mistaken for house afire.....	1	Electric wire short-circuited.....	1
Flame from broken gas pipe.....	1	Ignited joists under concrete base.....	2
Flame from oil burner mistaken for house afire.....	1	Improperly adjusted.....	5
Flue, defective.....	3	Improper combustion.....	1
Friction ignited contents of clothes drier.....	1	Joint in pipe leaking and oil ignited.....	1
Furnace back-fired.....	1	Motor overheated.....	2
Furnace, combustibles too close.....	8	Overheated furnace.....	1
Furnace, defective installation.....	8	Oil flowing in fire box.....	5
Furnace hot-air pipe too near wood partition.....	1	Pilot light went out.....	13
Furnace (one-pipe) ignited rug placed over register.....	1	Trip failed to work.....	3
Furnace overheated.....	3	Paint exploded.....	1
Gas escaping, ignited.....	22	Paint remover ignited from electric floor plug.....	1
Gas from soft coal ignited.....	1	Painter's torch, carelessness with.....	1
Gas heater exploded.....	2	Paper burning in hood of incinerator.....	1
Gas heater on printing press ignited paper.....	1	Plumber's furnace ignited tar pot.....	1
Gas hot-water heater ignited dress on woman.....	1	Plumber's torch exploded.....	1
Gas jet, combustibles too close.....	1	Pot of wax boiling over and ignited.....	1
Gas jet leaking and gas blazing.....	3	Rags behind latrobe stove caught fire.....	1
Gas lamp-post broken and escaping gas ignited.....	2	Rags on top of oven caught fire.....	1
Gas left burning in drier.....	1	Rekindling of old fire.....	4
Gas light mistaken for house afire.....	2	Rubber hose attached to gas burner, disconnected.....	3
Gas lighter too close to combustibles.....	6	Salamanca ignited lumber.....	2
Gas stove hose became disconnected, gas ignited.....	1	Smokepipes, defective; extended through woodwork; overheated; too close to woodwork.....	33
Gasoline:		Smokepipe fell.....	1
Carelessness with.....	5	Smokepipe holes, covered with combustible material; left open.....	6
Candles with.....	15	Smoke scare.....	109
Crimines ignited from open flame.....	6	Smokestack ignited scaffold built around same.....	1
Heater caught fire.....	1	Smoking, careless.....	351
Kindling fire with.....	3	Sparks fell on combustibles.....	114
Match dropped in.....	1	Sparks mistaken for house afire.....	34
On street ignited.....	2	Spontaneous combustion.....	21
Overflowing from torch ignited.....	2	Steam boiler ignited superstructure around same.....	1
Pipe in motor boat leaking.....	1	Steampipe ignited block of wood.....	1
Spilled in street, ignited.....	2	Static electricity.....	4
Too close to open flame.....	2	Sterno lamp ignited clothing.....	1
Torch ignited push cart.....	1	Stoves, caught fire; carelessness with; defective; exploded; overheated; too close to combustibles.....	75
Torch overturned.....	1	Street car slot rail short-circuited.....	2
Grease hood, defective installation.....	1	Sulphur candle, fumigating with.....	1
Grease stack afire.....	3	Suspicious fires.....	27
Grease vent caught fire.....	1	Tar pot caught fire.....	4
Hot-air duct overheated.....	1	Tar pot overturned; caught fire.....	8
Hot coal from locomotive ignited railroad trestle.....	1	Tinner's furnace, carelessness with.....	3
Hot-water heaters, defective; exploded; caught fire; too close to woodwork.....	6	Thawing frozen water pipe.....	2
		Tobacco pipe put in coat pocket while lighted.....	1

*Causes for which alarms of fire were sounded during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1927—Continued*

	Num- ber		Num- ber
Trash burning in cellar.....	1	Water bucket used for stove, set house afire.	1
Trash in trash chute caught fire.....	1	Wood girder extended under fire place, ignited.....	1
Trash too close to furnace.....	1		
Two alarms for same fire.....	9		
Unknown origin.....	13		
Vulcanizer ignited automobile tube.....	1	Fires outside of the District of Columbia.....	3,051
Woman's clothing came in contact with stove.....	2		37
Water boiling out of pot on stove.....	1	Total.....	3,088



